
Report to
Council

22nd February, 2005

Report of
Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Title
West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority – Public Consultation: Response to Notice of Motion

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To decide on the City Councils formal response following the West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority's (WMFCDA) response to the Councils Notice of Motion which was adopted at the meeting on 14th December 2004.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note WMFCDA's response and determine the City Council's formal position.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 After a period of public consultation, the WMFCDA published its first Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) "Your Safety. Our Priority." in April 2004. This was produced as a requirement of the Government's White Paper "Your Fire and Rescue Service" which set out the modernisations requirements for UK fire brigades. This has subsequently been updated to a National Framework document, which directs all Fire Authorities to issue and maintain an IRMP, and publish and consult on an Action Plan on an annual basis.
- 3.2 On 10th November 2004, the WMFCDA published a public consultation detailing changes to the Fire and Rescue Service over the next year.
- 3.3 At its meeting on 14th December 2004, the City Council adopted the following motion:

"This Council notes the proposals by the West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority, brought in as part of the Government policy, to reduce the number of fire engines from 62 to 47, a reduction of 15 within the region.

This includes a reduction in Coventry from 7 to 5 fire appliances, 1 from Radford Road and 1 from Foleshill Road Fire Stations.

This Council resolves to:-

- (a) Encourage all interested parties to make formal submissions to the WMFCDA public consultations by the closing date of February 2005.
- (b) Seek detailed information as to how response times and required number of appliances would be met in practice in Coventry.
- (c) Determine its formal position after the public consultation period and prior to the timetable for deliberations by the WMFCDA."

- 3.4 On 12th January 2005 the WMFCDA's response to the motion was received and is attached as appendix 1. The response addresses resolution (b) above, which sought further details regarding response times and number of appliances.
- 3.5 The consultation period closed on 1st February 2005. The outcomes resulting from the consultation will be published in April 2005 and will set out any approved changes resulting from the consultation period. Any changes to service provision will then take place between April 2005 and March 2006.

4 Proposal and Other Option(s) to be Considered

- 4.1 It is proposed that the City Council agree a response to the WMFCDA.

5 Other specific implications

5.1

	Implications (See below)	No Implications
Area Co-ordination		✓
Best Value		✓
Children and Young People		✓
Comparable Benchmark Data		✓
Corporate Parenting		✓
Coventry Community Plan		✓
Crime and Disorder		✓
Equal Opportunities		✓
Finance		✓
Health and Safety		✓
Human Resources		✓
Human Rights Act		✓
Impact on Partner Organisations		✓
Information and Communications Technology		✓
Legal Implications		✓
Property Implications		✓

	Implications (See below)	No Implications
Race Equality Scheme		✓
Risk Management		✓
Sustainable Development		✓
Trade Union Consultation		✓
Voluntary Sector – The Coventry Compact		✓

List of background papers

Proper officer: Chris Hinde, Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Author: Telephone 024 7683 3166
Carolyn Sinclair, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services
(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors:
Mick Green – 7683 1820
Chris Hinde – 7683 3020
Clive Townend - 7683 1878
Sharon Venters – 7683 3076

Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper
Minutes of Meeting, 14th December 2004

Location
CH61